February 2 Answers

1) When Moses and Aaron asked Pharaoh to let the Israelites leave Egypt, his reaction was hostile and sarcastic: "Who is the **LORD** that I should obey his voice?" (Exod 5:2). To Pharaoh, such a request showed how **lazy** the Israelites were. Clearly they needed more **work**! He stopped giving them straw to make bricks, but demanded they continue to meet their brick quotas. The foremen berated Moses, and he complained bitterly to God: "Why did you ever send me?" Moses clearly expected **faster** results and **fewer** problems. This teaches us that we shouldn't be surprised when God's promise to bring about good in our lives leads to **suffering**, setbacks and **hardship**. God allows these problems because we need to learn to **endure** through difficulty and **trust** Him to do what's best for us. Our responsibility is to **submit** to God's will, **honor** Him in our present situation, **wait** on His timing, and **remember** that He will not abandon us. God sent Moses back to the Israelites with a message of encouragement: "I will also **redeem** you with an outstretched arm and with great judgments" (Exod 6:6). God told them to put away their false **gods** and worship only Him, but they refused to obey (Ezek 20:5–9). God had brought them to the brink of the greatest miracles in human history, yet they wouldn't budge because of a little hardship. What a sobering lesson for us! God bore with their sin for His name's sake, and then He called Moses to renewed action. Moses and Aaron worked a **miracle** for Pharaoh, but his magicians did the same with their secret arts, and Pharaoh's heart remained **hard** just as God said it would (Exod 7:13).